

ABSTRACT

A transducer in an imaging optical system for generating optical contrasts
5 in the near-field representation of topographies of an object by outcoupling
evanescent waves from the underside of the transducer. The transducer
comprises a substrate having a transparent plane-parallel protuberance
corresponding to the field size of the imaging optical system and pointing toward
the object. The ^{specimen}~~transducer~~ outcouples evanescent waves from an underside of
10 the transducer, where the transducer underside is arranged in a focal plane of the
imaging optical system.

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